U.S. Coast Guard
Office of Response

Overview of Maritime Oil Spill Preparedness and Response

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Overview

- Preparedness
  - Network of Plans
  - OSRO Program
  - Training & Exercises
- Response
  - Organizations & Components
  - Response Resources
  - Incident Command System (ICS)

Oil Pollution Act of 1990

- OPA 90 legislation was a direct result of EXXON VALDEZ spill in 1989
  - 11 million gallons

- Established framework for oil spill prevention, preparedness & response in the U.S.
  - **Fundamental concept**: Placing responsibility for prevention & preparedness on industry, and building industries' capability to respond

"The polluter pays"

Preparedness

- Network of Plans
  - National Contingency Plan
  - Regional Response Plans
  - Area Contingency Plans

  Multi-agency gov't plans
  - Vessel Response Plans (VRP)
  - Facility Response Plans (FRP)

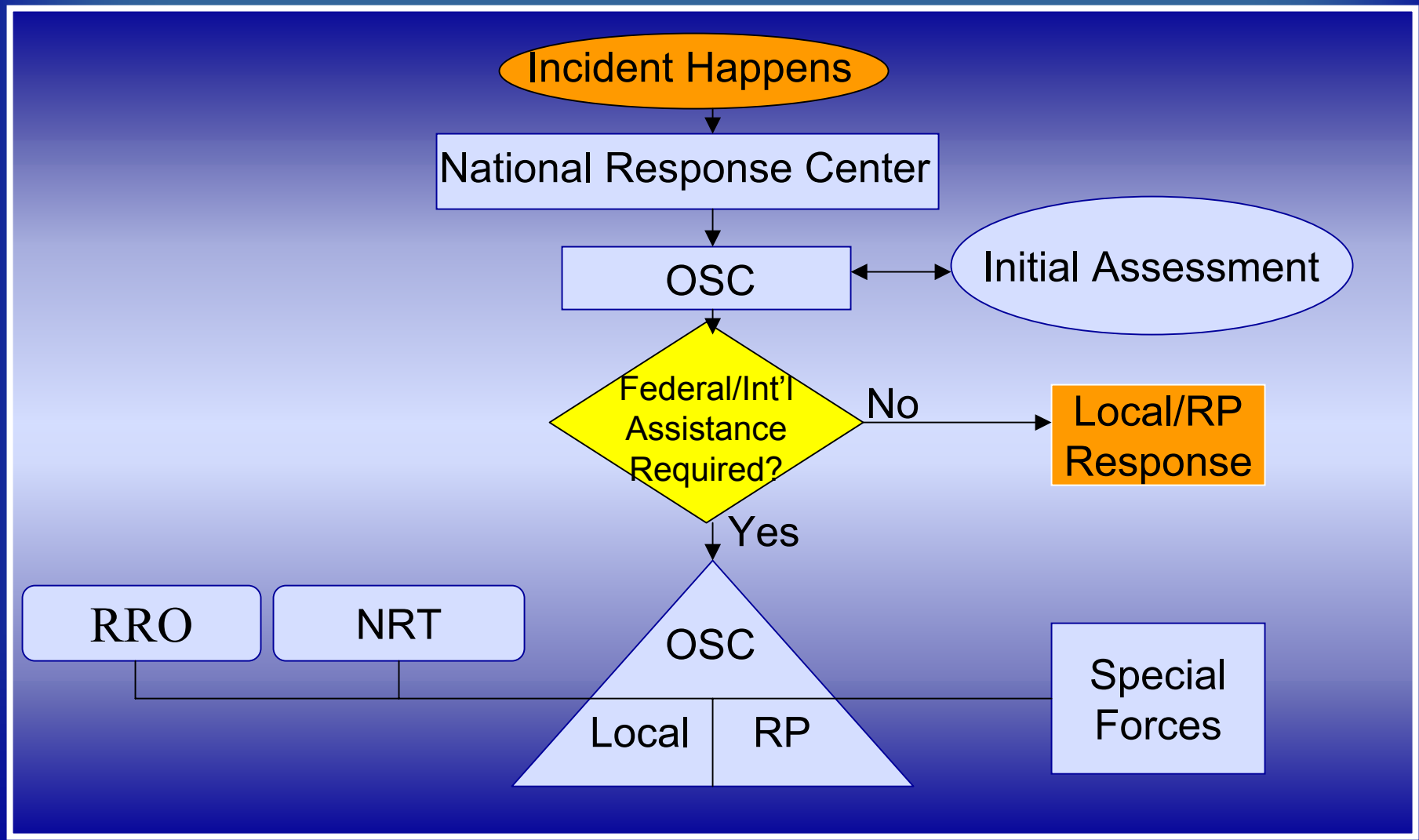
  Industry plans

- OSRO Program
  - Program for classifying the capabilities of Oil Spill Response Organizations
  - Rated under various environments:
    - River/canal
    - Inland
    - Open Ocean
    - Offshore
    - Nearshore
    - Great Lakes

Exercises

- National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP)
  - Established regimen of government and industry exercises designed to provide training and test plans
  - Several types of exercises:
    - Notification exercise
    - Tabletop exercise
    - Equipment deployment exercise
    - Unannounced drills
    - Spill Management Team exercise
    - Area exercises

Response Organization and Components



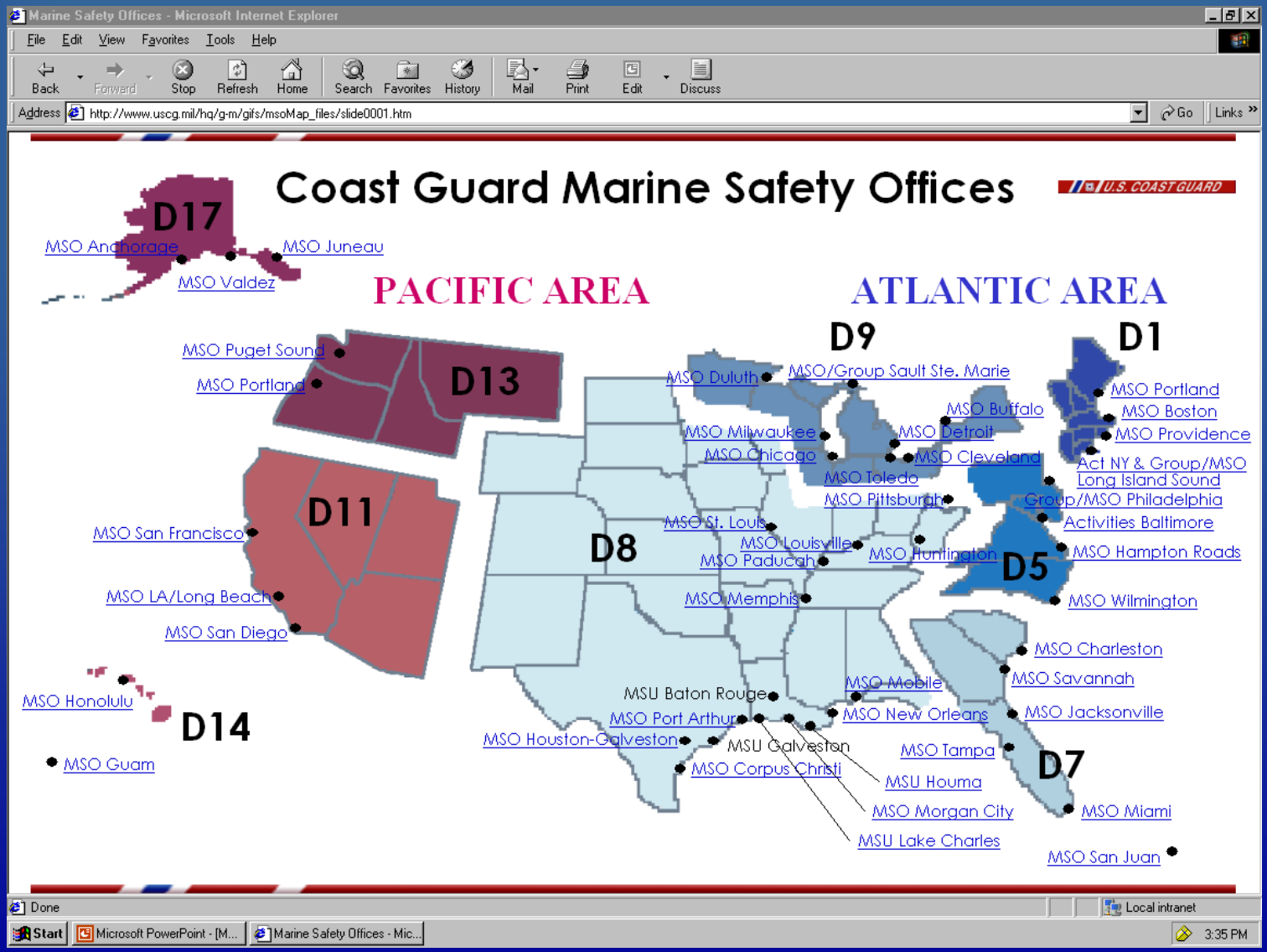
Response Resources

- Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC)
- Response Units
  - National Strike Force (NSF)
  - Marine Safety Offices (MSOs)
- Pre-positioned response equipment
  - Skimmers
  - Booms
  - Dispersants
  - In-Situ Burning

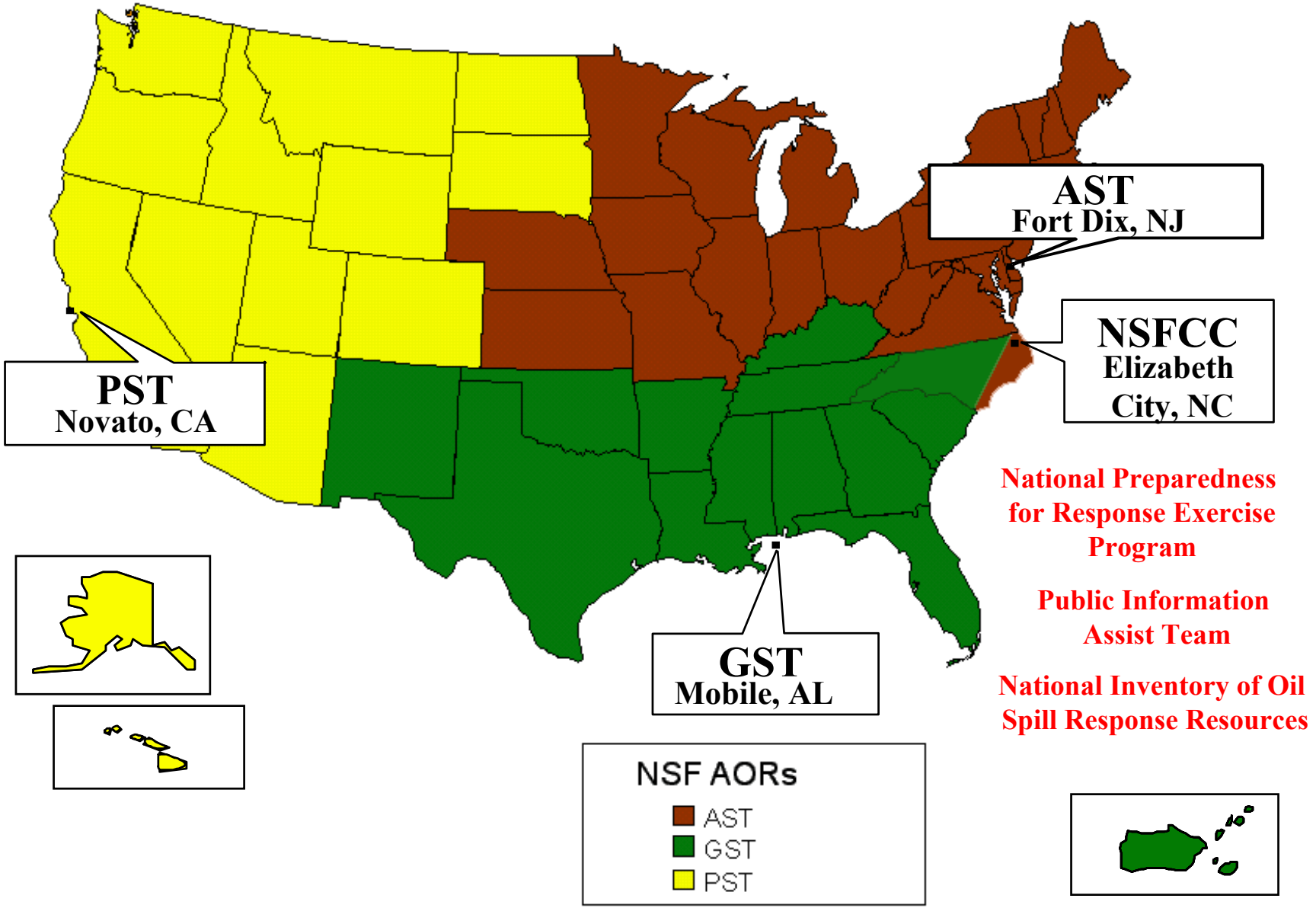
Federal On-Scene Coordinator

- Responsibilities
  - Enforcement authorities to ensure that the responsible party (RP) cleans up the spill or release;
  - Immediate access to technical assistance and cleanup contractors if the RP cannot adequately handle the problem;
  - Immediate access to SUPERFUND and OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND;
  - Special federal teams and equipment including USCG NSF.

Marine Safety Offices



National Strike Force



Need for a Standard Response Management System

- Complexity of incident management.
- Multi-agency and multifunctional involvement.
- Shortage of resources at all levels.
- Sophisticated media coverage demanding immediate answers and emphasizing efficient and effective response.
- Fiscal resource constraints.

Successful Response Management System

FOUR ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:

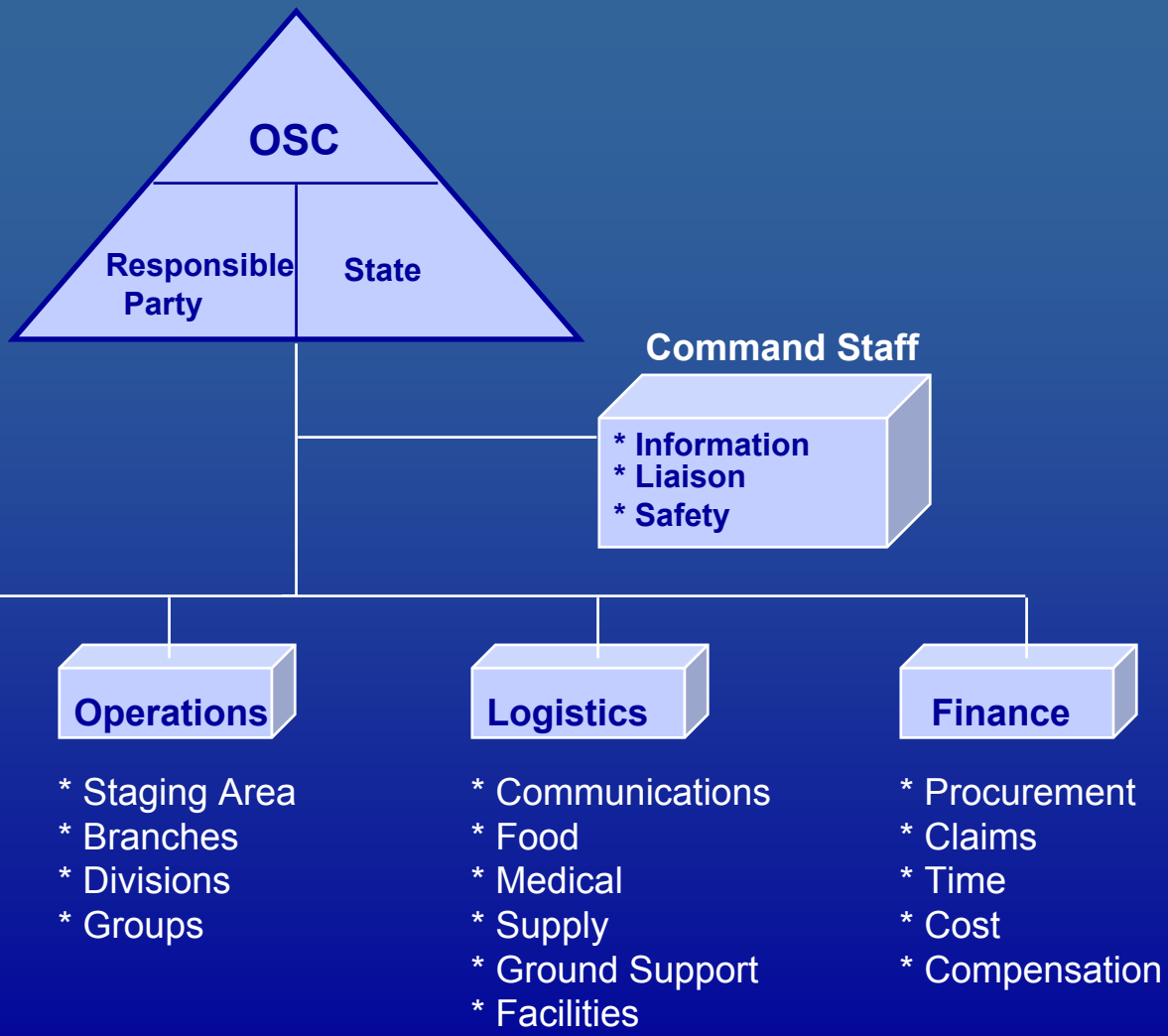
1. Organizational flexibility to meet the needs of incidents of any kind and size.

2. Capable of day to day use for routine and major emergencies.

3. Sufficiently standard to allow personnel from different agencies and geographic locations to meld into a common management structure.

4. The system must be cost effective.

Incident Command System Organization



Incident Command System

- Management by Objectives
- Unity and Chain of Command
- Organizational Flexibility
- Common Terminology
- Span of Control
- Integrated Communications

Conclusions

- Planning is key to an effective response
- Command & control are best approached in a systematic way
  - with organizations
  - with equipment
- Exercises and training are critical
- Environments are shared in common